



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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Four appointed to South Dakota Corrections Commission

Pierre, S.D. - Four new members have joined the South Dakota Corrections Commission and recently participated in their first meeting.

The new members include the Honorable Circuit Court Judge Kathleen Caldwell of Sioux Falls, State Senator Ken Albers of Canton; State Senator Julie Bartling of Burke and State Representative Carol Pitts of Brookings.

State Representative Garry Moore of Yankton was elected as commission chairman and Senator Albers was elected vice-chair during a meeting March 6th in Pierre. Moore was the only legislator to return to the commission following the fall elections.

The commission consists of nine members. Three members are appointed by the Governor, including one member from a list of three nominees provided by the Industry and Commerce Association of South Dakota; one member from a list of three nominees provided by the South Dakota Retailers Association; and one member representing labor. In addition, political party caucus leaders appoint two state senators and two state representatives, one from each political party. The Chief Justice of the South Dakota Supreme Court appoints the other two members.

Other commission members include State Supreme Court Justice Steven Zinter of Pierre, George W. Prest of Brookings, Brad Drake of Watertown and Paul Alyward of Huron.

In statute, the purpose of the Corrections Commission is to assist the Department of Corrections in examining criminal justice issues and developing initiatives to address problems in corrections and the criminal justice system. State law also charges the commission to undertake a continuing study of criminal sanctions in South Dakota. In addition, the commission must approve the expenditure of any funds, other than those for normal operating costs and replacement of existing necessary equipment, from the prison industries revolving fund for the purposes of enhancement, development, or expansion of prison industries.